There were a few qualified men in the community. They were not able to gain any footing in the service. The Saliya community was not represented in the Nagercoil Panchayat Court even though the Saliyas formed a third of the population of the town. One member from that community should be nominated evey year to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Following the principle of communal representation accepted by other Governments, the Saliyas were entitled to one seat on the Legislative Council and one member from that community should be nominated by the Government.

Some educated youths from among the weaving classes should be given foreign scholarships and trained in textile industry and given a suitable place in the Department of Industries in order that he might give proper instruction to the other members of his community in improved methods of weaving.

The S. M. R. V. Institute at Nagercoil should be rendered more useful to the weavers. There was not enough stock of reeds, shuttles, healds and other weaving accessories available for sale. There were several qualified men from the Saliya community who were not able to get any appointment in that institute. No new or artistic designs in weaving were taught in the institute. There were not proper men to work the costly machines purchased for sizing and other processes connected with the weaving industry. Yarn for one full year was stocked when its price was going down. Nearly Rs. 5,000 were spent for building rent, salaries of officers, stipends, etc. But there was no corresponding benefit. These matters should be taken note of by the Director of Industries and the defects remedied. An experienced man from the Saliya community, if appointed as the Superintendent of the institute, would be able to manage the institute more economically and profitably.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Subrahmanyan, the Saliya community is not worse off than several other 'backward' communities in education. They share equally with others fee concessions and also scholarships that are given to backward classes. I do not think there is justification for singling your community out from other backward classes for exceptional treatment or for the grant of further concessions.

2. What you say about the representation of the community in the public bodies, public service, in the Panchayat courts, etc., will be borne in mind by the Government. The Government are greatly obliged for your practical suggestions for the encouragement of weaving, particularly in relation to the Technical Institute at Nagercoil. All your suggestions will receive careful consideration.

160. Needs of the Vilakkattalanayar community.

MR. V. S. PADMANABHAN NAIR (*Member, Nominated*) said that such backward communities as his could push themselves forward only with the kind cooperation of the Government. Unless the community was represented in the Assembly, it would not be possible for the members to appraise the Government of their special needs. One member from the community should therefore be nominated every year to the Assembly.

There were a few boys and girls of the community who were qualified for the public service, but were unable to get any appointment in any branch of the administration. This seriously deterred them from taking to education. Qualified men from the community should therefore be appointed in the service immediately and all English School Final Certificate holders should be admitted into the Colleges in the State.

There were skilled physicians in the community. Those of them who had no examination qualification required for a grant-in-aid or appointment in the Ayurveda Department should be exempted from the rule and given suitable places in the department and grants-in-aid.

The twenty-five year rule in regard to appointments in the service should be relaxed in favour of the members of the community. There was one in that community who had passed the weaving test. He should be appointed as weaving instructor in a Vernacular school. Girls of the community who might not have

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the requisite qualification for admission to the midwifery or nursing classes should be exempted from the rule and admitted into those classes. Full fee concession should be granted to the pupils of the community in schools and colleges. The next man for a foreign scholarship should be selected from his community.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Padmanabhan Nair, I am afraid it will not be possible for the Government to promise to nominate a member of your community to the Assembly every year. The number of seats available for nomination is very few and each of the minor and unrepresented communities must take its turn.

2. You deal with relaxation of the rules regarding the educational qualifications and exemption from that longstanding rule of 25 years as the maximum limit for admission to Government service. I must confess that it is not possible to encourage your community to look forward to such special treatment. A community that lives and hopes for and expects and counts upon exemption and relaxation and special concession is a community that lives in a debilitating atmosphere. It is by special efforts and not by special exemptions that a community gains strength and advances.

3. On the subject of exempting expert *vaidyans* from professional examination qualifications, here too, I may say that the Government deprecate any system of general exemption. If a *vaidyan* by virtue of his special attainments and distinction and wide experience rises to such prominence and popularity as to mark himself out as an eminent member of the profession, the Government will be only too happy to accord full recognition to such attainments. These of course will be individual cases, and it will not be exemption, but well-deserved recognition. No general exemption can be granted.

4. Every encouragement will be given to bringing a knowledge of weaving to members of your community. Scholarships and fee concessions are already at the disposal of the community. The community must not expect immediate appointment of any member who qualifies himself for employment in Government service. His eligibility will be recognised at once and the chance of appointment will be held out to him just as to every other community.

161. Advancement of the Nadar community.

MR. R. SIVASUBRAHMANYA NADAR (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Nadars formed an important community in the State numbering more than 2,00,000. Yet they were not properly represented in the Legislative Council or the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. At least one should be nominated to the former and two to the latter.

The Nadars lived mostly in villages. There were not enough approach roads. They were finding it difficult to transport the produce from their villages to distant markets. The road from the Cape to Agastisvaram *via* Kottaram should be extended by a couple of furlongs so as to meet Kovalam, Manakkudi and other villages. The Manakkudi road should be connected with the Puttalam road. The Kottar-Parakkai road should be connected with the Kottar-Dharmapuram road by cutting a road across the stretch of *poramboke* between Surankudi and Parakkai. The village road from Parakkai to Manikettipottal which the people had constructed at their own cost should be taken over for maintenance by the Public Works Department. The village road from the Cape road to Eachanvila was complete and that also should be taken over by the department for maintenance. Bathing *ghats*, bridges, etc., should be constructed for the use of the villagers wherever necessary and convenient. In villages where there was water-scarcity, wells should be sunk. Culverts should be constructed along the channel from Champakulam which the people had cut at their own cost. It should also be taken over for departmental maintenance. The work in connection with the well sunk for the use of the people of Ammanvilai and other places should be completed.

Fee concessions and scholarships should be made available to *all* the pupils belonging to the Nadar community which was backward in point of education. In

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